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Statement submitted by All India Women's Conference, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Review of the achievements under the Millennium Development Goals conducted by governments as well as a number of civil society organizations have highlighted several loopholes within the policies as well as between policy and implementation strategy. The transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals, therefore, primarily needs to fill in the identified gaps and then take a transformative approach to ensure social inclusion for all, undeterred economic growth and a clean and secure environment. Policies and programmes under the sustainable development goals should be cohesive in nature, prioritize a more secure world, look at the root cause in parallel with endeavouring to eradicate poverty, protect the planet's natural resources, ensure equal opportunity for everyone and provide quality healthcare and education for all.

Integrated approach to sustainable development has been one of our successfully tried and tested agenda and with that experience, we suggest that:

(a) The sustainable development goals should adopt a holistic implementation strategy.

(b) A bottom up approach needs to be ensured while framing policies and programs. Countries should agree to the global goals with clear understanding that they will have mandate to translate such global goals and targets to the national level in a manner that respects the specific circumstances of the country.

(c) Transparency, accountability and rule of law should form the basis of all the sustainable development goals related policies and implementation strategy at the global as well as national level.

(d) Gender needs to be mainstreamed across all the goals and targets and the stand alone goal on women's empowerment should have a matching ambitious means of implementation.

(e) Parties need to ensure regular participation of civil society organizations and women's organization throughout the process of formation of policies and implementation at the global as well as national level. There should also be equal participation of CSOs in the global monitoring group.

(f) Capacity building and financing mechanism needs to be concretized to strengthen national capacities and further filter down to regional civil society organizations to facilitate effective participation and service delivery.

(g) All the data collected should be disaggregated on the basis of age, sex, gender, geography, disability, income, ethnicity and other relevant factors for monitoring inequalities.

(h) Equal and differentiated responsibilities must be largely recognized, integrated and should form basis for crafting commitments and responsibilities under the goals and development agenda. National priorities must reflect distinctly in the schemes and policies adopted by government at the regional level.